

THE PERISCOPE

CROSS-COUNTRY WIRE

Boston

The location of the Kennedy Memorial Library complex is up in the air. Architect I.M. Pei thinks the planned site, near the Harvard Business School on the Charles River, is too cramped. Seven new locations are now under consideration, one in Lexington, one in Brookline (JFK's birthplace), and five in Cambridge.

Along Embassy Row

Although LBJ has told U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain David Bruce that he wants him to stay on in London, a search for his eventual successor is under way. (The word is that a change will be made after the next British general election, now expected sometime this year.) Two Texas camps are already promoting Lone Star statures for the post. One wants LBJ to appoint Dallas department-store executive Stanley Marcus; the other is for oilman George McGhee, now ambassador to Bonn.

Pentagon

While the U-2 spy plane no longer makes runs over the Soviet Union, the newest and fastest U.S. reconnaissance aircraft, the SR-71, will be in a position to resume them later this year. The SR-71 takes better photos than the "spy satellites," gets them home faster, and is just about as invulnerable to countermeasures. Note: President Eisenhower suspended the U-2 flights over the U.S.S.R. in 1960, but his action does not bind his successors.

Los Angeles

Republican rank-and-file enthusiasm for actor Ronald Reagan as the 1966 GOP candidate for California governor continues to swell, but the party pros feel differently. They find three things wrong with Reagan: (1) his close ties with the right wing; (2) possible anti-Hollywood feeling in view of the fact that song-and-dance man George Murphy is already in the Senate, and (3) Reagan's refusal to fly—a tough campaign hurdle in a state almost 800 miles long.

DIPLOMATIC POUCH

Bonn

West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard is working in the dark in much of his dealings with Charles de Gaulle. Bonn is missing some of the intimate documents covering relations with the French President before 1963, when Erhard became Chancellor. Reason: his predecessor,

Konrad Adenauer, took the papers with him to use in preparing his memoirs. Bonn, for instance, has no real record of whether it was de Gaulle or the Germans who first proposed the Franco-German friendship treaty.

Rome

Italy's anticlimax of the year will be the long-awaited report of a parliamentary investigation of the Mafia. After eighteen months, the result (due next month) is all of four pages long. The major finding: that the Mafia has been making money on land deals in Sicily, something that has been common knowledge in Italy.

Colombo, Ceylon

Ceylon security officials last week got new evidence of Red Chinese interference in the current Ceylonese election campaign. The Ceylonese Post Office Department is running out of 5-cent stamps because Peking's embassy is buying so many of them to send out literature boosting the cause of Red-leaning Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

Balboa, Canal Zone

Despite all the talk of using nuclear power to blast out a new sea-level canal across the isthmus, the possibility of reshaping the present Panama Canal by conventional methods is still strong. A new look at the old \$2.1 billion estimate for converting the Canal has convinced some top U.S. officials that the figure is far too high. That estimate is based on plans to close the Canal for only two weeks. Closing it longer, say for two months, would greatly reduce costs.

INSIDE STORY

Detroit

General Motors is working on an answer to Ford's runaway first-year best seller, the Mustang. GM's Chevrolet division is expected to have a rival car in its 1967 line. And there is a distinct chance that Pontiac will also get into the Mustang stakes with a new model.

Saigon

Here is the story behind the mysterious return from Washington of Col. Pham Ngoc Thao, a Vietnamese guerrilla expert and protégé of Lt. Gen. Tran Thien Khiem, Saigon's ambassador to the U.S. The trip was arranged by U. Alexis Johnson, U.S. Deputy Ambassador here. Thao was to be on hand to help line up a new Vietnamese Army chief if Gen. Nguyen Khanh lost his job during his feud with Ambassador